Rs. 758, Park View Bungalow, Rs 1641; Cotton Hill Bungalow, Rs. 904; and the Indian Assistant's Quarters, Thycaud, a monthly rent of Rs. 50.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: May I know whether these rents have been fixed according to the rent control order.

HON'BLE MR. A. ACHUTHAN: No. The rent is fixed at one-tenth of its total cost.

Thiruvattar Village Union.

213. MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of petitions received impeaching the election dated 12-6-1123 to the Thiruvattar Village Union;

(*b*) the names of the persons questioning the validity of the election;

(*c*) whether the petitions were enquired into:

(*d*) the name or names of the officers who enquired into these petitions;

(*e*) the result of their enquiry; and

(*f*) whether the receipt of such petitions is a bar to the publication of the result in the Gazette.

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: (*a*) One phonocom, two petitions, and one letter impeaching the Election were received.

(*b*) (i) Mr. K. Narayana Pillai, President, State Congress Committee, Thiruvattar.

(ii) Signatories to the mass-petition dated 28-6-1123 to Government for cancelling the Election and holding a re-election.

(iii) President, Village Uplift Centre, Thiruvattar.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Registrar of Village Unions and Panchayats and his Assistant.

(*e*) The enquiry showed that considerable factious spirit had vitiated the Election (which was done by show of hands) and that a re-election according to the ballot system may rectify the Election complaints very much.

(*f*) Publication of the Election results may have to be deferred if petitions questioning the validity of the Election, on reasonable grounds, are received in due time.

MR. D GNANASIGAMONI: Was notice given in reference to successful candidates ?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: I claim notice.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: Did the petitioner deposit the requisitioned amount under the Village Unions Act?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: I suppose he might have done that.

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MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: May I know whether any other officer than the Peishkar has any power to make an enquiry on the matter?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: The Registrar can make an enquiry.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: May I know whether it was done in an arbitrary manner?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: I do not think there is any arbitrariness in the matter.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: Can the Government make an open enquiry in the matter?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: That is a matter for consideration.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: May I know whether the Registrar, or the Division Peishkar has a right to set aside an enquiry?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: That is why I said that the publication of election results may have to be deferred, if petitions questioning the validity of the election on responsible grounds are received in due time.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: Does the Government know that there is no provision to delay the publication of election?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: I think my answer holds good.

MR. D. GNANASIGAMONI: Will the Minister be pleased to consider the matter?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: Yes; I will call for legal opinion.

MR. A. NESAMONY: Are the Government prepared to hold over the re-election till the legal opinion is obtained on the matter?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: That matter also will be considered.

Tobacco smuggling cases.

214. MR. P. GOPALAN: Will the Honourable Minister for Excise be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any tobacco smuggling cases have been charged by the Excise Department at Vaikom from 1120 up to this day; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative what is the number?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Eleven cases.

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